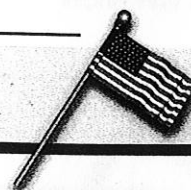


Name: _____ Date: _____

World War II



In the worldwide turmoil caused by the Great Depression, governments turned to powerful dictators to try to bring stability and prevent communism from spreading. In Italy, a group called Fascists led by Benito Mussolini came to power. Japan's liberal prime minister was shot in 1930, the military took over, and it began preparing for a war on China. In Germany, Adolf Hitler became chancellor and president in 1934, and his Nazi party took over the government.

In 1939, after having annexed Austria and invaded Czechoslovakia, Nazi Germany signed a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union and both nations invaded Poland on September 1. Great Britain and France declared war against Germany. The Nazis gained quick victories in Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France in 1940. After France's surrender, Germans bombed London and other British cities in the Battle of Britain from August through October of 1940.

Countries around the world soon lined up on one side or the other. The main Axis powers were Germany, Italy, and Japan, but six other countries eventually joined them. The Allies originally consisted of Great Britain, France, and China, but by the end of the war totaled 50 nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union.

Fighting occurred on several fronts during the war. The Germans broke the non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union and fought them on the eastern front. They also fought the Allies on the western front in France. Italy and Germany fought Allied forces in North Africa. Japan invaded China and Indochina and dominated the Pacific region.

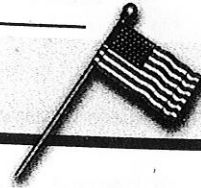
While many Americans wanted to stay out of the fight, most sympathized with the Allies, and in March 1941 the Lend-Lease Act made it easier for Allied nations to purchase war materials from the United States without cash payments. The United States joined the Allies after the Japanese attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. Germany and Italy then declared war on the United States on December 11. America would have to fight a war in Europe and in the Pacific.

Allied forces led by Lieutenant General Dwight Eisenhower defeated the Germans in North Africa in May 1943 and then began the invasion of Sicily and Italy. On June 4, 1944, the Allies took Rome. Plans were then set for "Operation Overlord," the invasion of France. On June 6, 1944 (D-Day), the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy in northern France. By late 1944, France and Belgium were freed and Allied troops were pushing into Holland and Germany. Faced with Americans and British on the west and Soviets on the east, Hitler committed suicide. His death was announced on May 1, 1945, and on May 8, Germany surrendered.

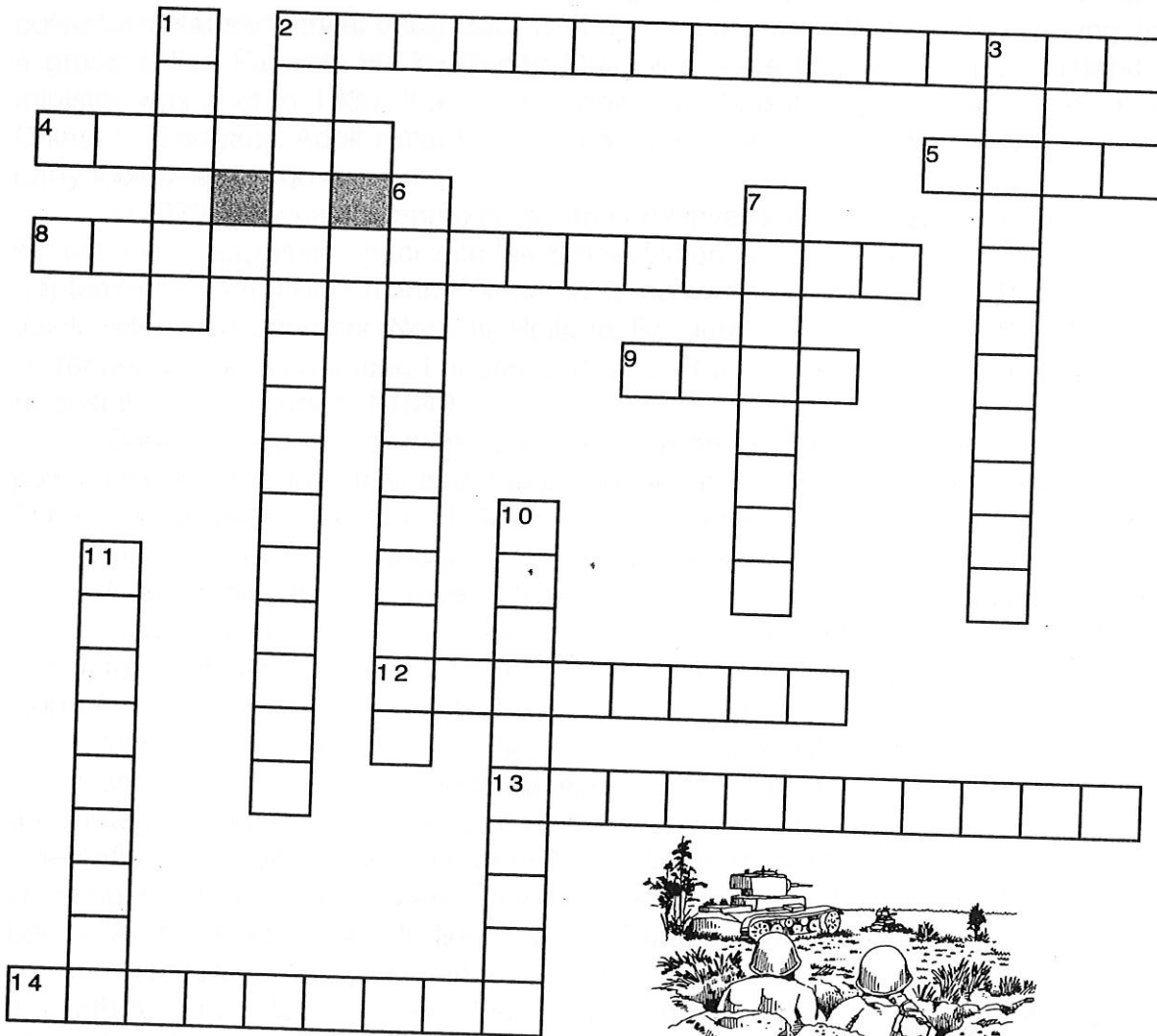
The Japanese had quickly taken the Philippines, Guam, and Wake Island, and by March 1942, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur was forced out of the Philippines. A series of sea battles and island landings slowly stopped the Japanese expansion. Allied victories at Midway, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa closed in on Japan. Allied planes started bombing Tokyo in February 1945. U.S. troops prepared to invade Japan, but knowing the invasion would cost thousands of lives, President Harry Truman ordered atomic bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and on Nagasaki on August 9. Faced with these atomic weapons, Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945, and signed a treaty of surrender on September 2. The war had finally ended.

Name: _____ Date: _____

World War II Crossword Puzzle



Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

2. German bombing of London from August to October 1940 (three words)
4. The invasion of this country by Germany and the Soviet Union started World War II.
5. This Italian city was taken by the Allies on June 4, 1944.
8. This caused worldwide turmoil and the rise of powerful dictators. (two words)
9. Germany, Italy, and Japan were called the _____ powers.
12. "Operation _____" was the name of the invasion of France.
13. President who ordered the use of atomic bombs against Japan (two words)
14. American commander forced to leave the Philippines in March 1942

DOWN

1. Great Britain, France, and China were the original _____.
2. Fascist dictator of Italy (two words)
3. Nazi dictator of Germany (two words)
6. American naval base attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941 (two words)
7. This group took over in Japan after 1930.
10. American who was the commander of Allied forces in North Africa and later in Europe
11. City where the first atomic bomb was dropped

